

Serial No.: 10/087,989

Atty Docket No. 280/072CIP

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of all the claims of record are respectfully requested. Claims 1-19 are pending. Claim 20 has been added. Claim 1 is the sole independent claim under consideration.

Prior Art Rejection

Claims 1-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Kerth*. This rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the reasons set forth above.

While *Kerth* may teach dicing a wafer on a dice support including a first dice, flipping the wafer, and performing a second dice, it is respectfully submitted that this second dice does not dice through the wafer as set forth in claim 1. In col. 4, lines 22-30 of *Kerth*, the total depth of each aligned channel pair is taught to be less than the total wafer thickness. The diced wafer is to be subject to subsequent breakage. The dice in *Kerth* is for allowing a portion to remain that allows for sufficient strength during subsequent handling, yet allow for easy detachment with a small amount of force. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that *Kerth* actually teaches away from dicing through the wafer, as set forth in claim 1.

The remaining claims depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 1 and are similarly believed to be allowable for at least the reasons set forth above. Further, it is noted that numerous dependent claims recite features clearly not disclosed or suggested in *Kerth*. For example, claim 3 recites securing another wafer on top of the first dice. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that *Kerth* fails to disclose or suggest the present invention as set forth in the claims, and it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

Petition For Two Month Extension of Time

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.17 and 1.136(a), the Applicants hereby petition for an extension of two (2) months to February 3, 2004 for the period in which to file a response to the outstanding Office Action. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the required fee of \$210.00 to Deposit Account No. 50-1364.

Serial No.: 10/087,989

Atty Docket No. 280/072CIP

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration and withdrawal of all objections and rejections are respectfully requested. An early Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

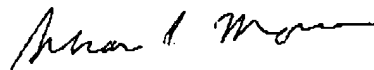
In the event that there are any outstanding matters remaining in the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact Susan S. Morse (Reg. No. 35,292) at (703) 525-0978 in the Washington, D.C. area, to discuss these matters.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1364 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

Digital Optics Corporation

By:



Susan S. Morse
Reg. No. 35,292

LEE & STERBA, P.C.
1101 WILSON BOULEVARD
SUITE 2000
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22209